Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-41 (Canceled).

Claim 42 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The wire feed device according to claim ~~41~~ 81, wherein at least one guiding element ~~(28)~~ is displaceably arranged in ~~a~~ the base body ~~(29)~~.

Claim 43 (Canceled).

Claim 44 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The wire feed device according to claim ~~43~~ 81, wherein three guiding elements ~~(28), which are preferably offset by an angle of 120°,~~ are arranged about the welding wire ~~(13)~~.

Claim 45 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The wire feed device according to claim 42, wherein the base body ~~(29) together with said at least one guiding element (28)~~ is~~, preferably~~ centrically~~,~~ arranged in ~~a~~ the drive sleeve ~~(43), with the drive means (37) being formed by this drive sleeve (43)~~.

Claim 46 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The wire feed device according to claim 45, wherein the drive sleeve ~~(43)~~ is formed with an internal thread adapted to the contour of the transport element ~~(33)~~ and engaged by at least ~~on~~ one transport element ~~(33)~~.

Claim 47 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The wire feed device according to claim 46, wherein each of the internal thread of the drive sleeve ~~(43)~~, the base body ~~(29)~~ and the guiding ~~element (28) are preferably~~ elements is conically designed.

Claim 48 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The wire feed device according to claim 46, wherein the base body ~~(29)~~ comprises a ~~preferably~~ cylindrical projection ~~(42)~~, wherein the cylindrical projection ~~which~~ is mounted in the interior of the drive sleeve ~~(43), preferably via a bearing assembly (44)~~.

Claim 49 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The wire feed device according to claim 48, wherein the base body ~~(29)~~, on its side located opposite the projection ~~(42)~~, comprises a ~~preferably~~ rectangularly designed positioning flange ~~(45)~~.

Claim 50 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The wire feed device according to claim 49, the positioning flange ~~(45)~~ is connected with a retention element ~~(46)~~ in a rotationally fast manner.

Claim 51 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The wire feed device according to claim 50, wherein the drive sleeve ~~(43)~~ is connected with a coupling element ~~(47)~~, said coupling element ~~(47)~~ being arranged on the opposite side of the retention element ~~(46)~~.

Claim 52 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The wire feed device according to claim 51, wherein the coupling element ~~(47)~~ or the drive sleeve ~~(43)~~ is directly connected with a drive ~~(57), in particular electromotor~~.

Claim 53 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The wire feed device according to claim 52, wherein the drive ~~(57)~~ is arranged axially to the wire feed device ~~(27)~~.

Claim 54 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The wire feed device according to claim 53, wherein the drive ~~(57)~~ comprises a hollow shaft ~~(58)~~, wherein the hollow shaft ~~which~~ is connected with the coupling element ~~(47)~~ and ~~through which~~ wherein the welding wire ~~(13)~~ is passable through the hollow shaft to the wire feed device ~~(27)~~.

Claim 55 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The wire feed device according to claim 52, wherein the drive ~~(57), in particular a casing (59) of the drive (57),~~ is rotationally connected with a further retention element ~~(60) in a rotationally fast manner~~.

Claim 56 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The wire feed according to claim 42, wherein a pressure element ~~(61)~~ is arranged in the base body ~~(29)~~ so as to be positioned between the positioning flange ~~(45)~~ and the guiding ~~element (28)~~ elements and to exert a pressure force onto the guiding ~~element (28)~~ elements.

Claim 57 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The wire feed device according to claim 42, wherein ~~the~~ each guiding element ~~(28)~~ comprises a guide groove ~~(38)~~ and at least one guide pin ~~(50)~~ is arranged on the base body ~~(29)~~ to engage said guide groove ~~(38)~~ of the guiding element ~~(28)~~.

Claim 58 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The wire feed device according to claim ~~41~~ 81, wherein ~~the~~ each transport element ~~(33)~~ is designed in the form of a ball.

Claim 59 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The wire feed device according to claim 45, wherein the drive sleeve ~~(43)~~ has an outer diameter ~~(67)~~ of between 20mm and 30mm.

Claim 60 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The wire feed device according to claim ~~41~~ 81, wherein the wire feed device ~~(27)~~ is arranged in at least one of a welding torch ~~(10) and/or~~ and a welding apparatus ~~(1)~~.

Claim 61 (Currently Amended): A method for feeding a welding wire ~~(13)~~ from a wire storage to a point of consumption, wherein a plurality of guiding elements for guiding the welding wire are arranged in a base body, each guiding element including a guide path along which a plurality of transport elements are displaceably mounted, wherein the guiding elements and the base body are arranged in a drive sleeve to form a drive mechanism connected with at least one transport element of each guiding element, wherein the welding wire ~~(13)~~ is guided through at least one guide element ~~(28)~~, and wherein ~~several transport elements (33) are guided in at least one guiding element (28) to circulate along a guide path (32), with~~ at least one transport element ~~(33) being~~ is in operative connection with the welding wire ~~(13)~~ on a side of the respective guiding element ~~(28)~~ facing the welding wire ~~(13)~~, and on at least one further side of the guiding element ~~(28)~~, at least one further transport element ~~(33)~~ is displaced by ~~a~~ the drive ~~means (37)~~ mechanism, thus causing the ~~further~~ transport elements ~~(33)~~ arranged in the guide path ~~(32)~~ to be moved on by said at least one further transport element

~~(33)~~ displaced by the drive ~~means (37)~~ mechanism, wherein at least one guiding element ~~(28)~~ is displaced for adaptation to the diameter of the welding wire ~~(13)~~.

Claim 62 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The feeding method according to claim 61, wherein ~~the~~ each guiding element ~~(28)~~ is displaced in ~~a~~ the base body ~~(29), preferably~~ in at least one of a ~~the~~ longitudinal ~~and/or~~ and a vertical direction.

Claim 63 (Canceled).

Claim 64 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The feeding method according to claim 62, wherein ~~preferably~~ three guiding elements ~~(28)~~, ~~which are~~ offset by 120°, are arranged in the base body ~~(29)~~.

Claim 65 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The feeding method according to claim 62, wherein the base body ~~(29), together with the guiding element (28) arranged therein,~~ is ~~preferably~~ centrically arranged in ~~a~~ the drive sleeve ~~(43) forming the drive means (37)~~.

Claim 66 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The feeding method according to claim 65, wherein at least one transport element

~~(33)~~ engages a thread ~~(36)~~ of the drive sleeve ~~means (37)~~, with ~~the~~ a contour of the thread ~~(36)~~ being adapted to ~~the~~ a contour of the transport element ~~(33)~~.

Claim 67 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The feeding method according to claim 66, wherein each of the thread ~~(36)~~ of the drive sleeve ~~(43)~~, the base body ~~(29)~~ and the guiding ~~element (28) are preferably~~ elements is conically designed.

Claim 68 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The feeding method according to claim 66, wherein the base body ~~(29)~~ comprises a ~~preferably~~ cylindrical projection ~~(42)~~, ~~via which~~ the base body ~~(29) is~~ being mounted in the interior of the drive sleeve ~~(43), preferably via a bearing assembly (44)~~ via the cylindrical projjection.

Claim 69 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The feeding method according to claim 68, wherein the base body ~~(29)~~, on its side located opposite the projection ~~(42)~~, comprises a ~~preferably~~ rectangularly designed positioning flange ~~(45)~~.

Claim 70 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The feeding method according to claim 69, wherein the positioning flange ~~(45)~~ is connected with a retention element ~~(46)~~ in a rotationally fast

manner.

Claim 71 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The feeding method according to claim 70, wherein a coupling element ~~(47)~~ is connected with the drive sleeve ~~(43)~~ on the opposite side of the retention element ~~(46)~~.

Claim 72 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The feeding method according to claim 71, wherein the coupling element ~~(47)~~ or the drive sleeve ~~(43)~~ is directly connected with a drive ~~(57), in particular electromotor~~.

Claim 73 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The feeding method according to claim 72, wherein the drive ~~(57)~~ is arranged axially to the wire feed device.

Claim 74 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The feeding method according to claim 73, wherein the drive ~~(57)~~ is connected with the coupling element ~~(47)~~ via a hollow shaft ~~(58)~~ arranged in the drive ~~(57)~~, said welding wire ~~(13)~~ being fed through said hollow shaft ~~(58)~~.

Claim 75 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The feeding method according to claim 72, wherein the drive ~~(57), in particular a~~

~~casing (59) of the drive (57),~~ is rotationally connected with a further retention element ~~(60) in a rotationally fast manner~~.

Claim 76 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The feeding method according to claim 62, wherein a pressure force is exerted on the guiding element ~~(28)~~ by a pressure element ~~(61)~~ arranged in the base body ~~(29)~~ between the positioning flange ~~(45)~~ and the guiding element ~~(28)~~.

Claim 77 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The feeding method according to claim 62, wherein at least one guide pin ~~(50)~~ arranged on the base body ~~(29)~~ engages a guide groove ~~(38)~~ of the guiding element ~~(28)~~ and the guiding element ~~(28)~~ is displaced via said assembly.

Claim 78 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The feeding method according to claim 61, wherein the transport element ~~(33)~~ is designed in the form of a ball.

Claim 79 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The feeding method according to claim 65, wherein the drive sleeve ~~(43)~~ has an outer diameter ~~(67) preferably~~ of between 20mm and 30mm.

Claim 80 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The feeding method according to claim ~~61~~ 86, wherein the wire feed device ~~(27)~~ is ~~preferably~~ arranged in at least one of a welding torch ~~(10)~~ ~~and/or~~ and a welding apparatus ~~(1)~~.

Claim 81 (New): A wire feed device for transporting a welding wire from a wire storage to a point of consumption comprising:

(a) a plurality of guiding elements for guiding the welding wire, each guiding element including a guide path along which a plurality of transport elements are displaceably mounted;

(b) a base body; and

(c) a drive sleeve connected with at least one transport element of each guiding element;

wherein at least one further transport element is connected with the welding wire in at least one of a force-locking manner and a form-locking manner;

wherein the base body and the guiding elements are arranged in the drive sleeve; and

wherein at least one guiding element is displaceably arranged to adapt to a diameter of the welding wire.

Claim 82 (New): The wire feed device according to claim 44, wherein the guiding elements are offset by an angle of 120

degrees.

Claim 83 (New): The wire feed device according to claim 48, wherein the base body is mounted in the interior of the drive sleeve via a bearing assembly.

Claim 84 (New): The wire feed device according to claim 52, wherein the drive connecting the coupling element or the drive sleeve is an electromotor.

Claim 85 (New): The wire feed device according to claim 55, wherein the drive comprises a drive casing rotationally connected with the further connection element.

Claim 86 (New): The feeding method according to claim 68, wherein the base body is mounted in the interior of the drive sleeve via a bearing assembly ~~(44)~~.

Claim 87 (New): The feeding method according to claim 72, wherein the drive is an electromotor.

Claim 88 (New): The feeding method according to claim 75, wherein the drive comprises a drive casing rotationally connected with the further connection element.